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PATENT APPLICATION

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re application of

Docket No: Q60971

Frank STEEGMANS, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/680,283

Group Art Unit: 2155

Confirmation No.: 8493

Examiner: Philip B. TRAN

Filed: October 06, 2000

For: METHOD FOR ACCESSING A SERVICE PLATFORM VIA AN INTERNET
BROWSER SESSION

SUBMISSION OF APPEAL BRIEF

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith please find an Appeal Brief. A check for the statutory fee of \$500.00 is attached. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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BROWSER SESSION

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 41.37, Appellant submits the following:

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U.S. Appln. No. 09/680,283
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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is ALCATEL, by virtue of an assignment executed by Frank STEEGMANS and Steven VERMEULEN (hereinafter "Appellant") on December 4, 2000, and recorded by the Assignment Branch of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 3, 2001, at Reel 011394, Frame 0181.

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II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

To the knowledge and belief of Appellant, the Assignee, and the undersigned, there are no other appeals or interferences before the Board of Appeals and Interferences that will directly affect or be affected by the Board's decision in the instant Appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 and 6-21 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-4 and 6-21 presently stand rejected.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and claims 1-4 and 6-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Zen et al. "Value-added Internet: a pragmatic TINA-based path to the Internet and PSTN Integration" Global Convergence of Telecommunications and Distributed Objected Computing Proceedings, November 17-20, 1997 (hereinafter "Zen") in view of Manione et al., "A 'TINA Light' Service Architecture for the Internet-Telecom scenario," Telecommunications Information Networking Architecture Conference Proceedings, April 12-15, 1999 (hereinafter "Manione").

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

With the filing of this Brief, all Amendments have been entered and considered by the Examiner.

The Application was originally filed with claims 1-17.

In response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed February 19, 2004, Appellant filed an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed on April 15, 2004, in which claims 1-17 were amended and claim 18 was added.

In response to the Final Office Action mailed November 15, 2004, Appellant filed a Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on February 15, 2005. In this Response, no amendments were made.

In response to the Advisory Action mailed April 14, 2005, Appellant filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) with an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c) on May 11, 2005, in which claims 1, 11, and 17 were amended, claim 5 was canceled, and claims 19-21 were added.

In response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed August 26, 2005, Appellant filed a Notice of Appeal to appeal the rejections of claims 1-4 and 6-21 on November 21, 2005.

The Appendix included with this Brief, sets forth the claims involved in the appeal and reflects the claim changes made in the above-identified Amendments.

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Appellant's invention is directed to a method for accessing a service platform via an Internet browser session (*see* Abstract). In the related art, there were no integration of the service platform such as Telecommunication Information Networking Architecture (TINA) services with the internet. In other words, the internet session could not rely on an established infrastructure for service management such as accounting, billing, deployment, and so on (page 2, lines 4 to 10 of the specification). One way to integrate the Internet and a service platform is to install additional software components such as CORBA on a user browser to make the browser TINA enabled. The TINA platform then selects the most appropriate transport technology and establishes a dedicated connection (page 2, lines 15 to 30 of the specification). CORBA, however, has heavy interface limitations, which cause problems for maintenance and development especially over the network boundaries.

In view thereof, an aspect of the Appellant's invention is to improve the integration of the service platforms such as the TINA service platform and the Internet. A web-browsing session is associated with a service platform service session having JAVA components exchange information. In particular, a special servlet is installed at the web-server of a content provider. This servlet is triggered by a certain or all uniform resource locations (URL). If a certain URL is not associated to a particular user in a service session, the servlet returns an applet that will walk the browsing user through the logon process for this service session associated with the requested URL (page 3, lines 1 to 13 of the specification). When the user is logged on, the initial URL is re-requested by the applet. This time the servlet will find the association of the web browser session and the service session (page 3, lines 14 to 28 of the specification).

In the Appellant's invention the following service components are provided: provider agent (PA)1, PA2, customer user application (ssUAPc), provider user application (ssUAPp), user agent (UA)1, UA2, announcement manager (AM), service session manger (SSM), service factory (SF), initial agent (IA), a servlet (SL), an applet (AL), a browser (BR), a server (SERV), and a content repository (CDB), depicted in the Figure. Components PA1, PA2, ssUAPc, ssUAPp, UA1, UA2, AM, SSM, SF, and IA are components of a service platform (SP). These components are split into three domains Customer, Retailer, and Provider. The service components PA1, ssUAPc, AL, and BR are assigned to the domain Customer, which contain software components of a specific user. The service components PA2 and ssUAPp, SL, SERV, and CDB are assigned to the domain Provider that provides services. The service components UA1, UA2, AM, SF, SSM, and IA are assigned to the domain Retailer, which sells different kinds of services and mediates between the users of the domains Customer and Provider, and perform function for a retailer (page 4, lines 13 to 24 and page 5, lines 15 to 25 of the specification). Each component has a well defined interface for interaction with other service components (page 5, lines 5 to 14 of the specification).

The service components PA1, PA2, UA1, UA2, and IA are access session related service components offering personalized and secure access to services. The service components ssUAPc, ssUAPp, AM, and SSM are service session related service components that provide a framework for defining services that can be accessed and managed across multiple domains. The service component SF performs the function of a service factory (page 6, lines 10 to 21 and page 7, lines 20 to 30 of the specification). The service component SSM performs the function of a service session manager, which manages and controls a specific service (page 8, lines 1 to 4

of the specification). The service component ssUAPc and ssUAPp performs the function of a user application and the service component AM performs the function of an announcement manager (page 8, lines 5 to 11 of the specification).

The BR is a world wide web (www) browser, the SERV is a www server that performs services within the www and enables these services to communicate with users via the www. The SERV is linked with the CDB, which makes the contents managed by the CDB available to users of the www (page 8, line 12 to page 9, line 4 of the specification). The SL is a managed content retrieval servlet, which performs management and control of the service. The AL is a managed content retrieval applet, which is an applet that also performs the support, management, and control of the service (page 9 of the specification).

In accordance with the Appellant's invention, the SL is launched together with the SERV. Next, the content provider of the domain Provider, goes through the login procedure and starts a managed content retrieval session at his retailer (launching UAPp) *i.e.*, by registering the SSM (service specific interface) with the SL. Then, the user requests a link from the www server of the provider, thereby invoking the SL (page 10, lines 8 to 14 of the specification).

When a registered www browser session fetches information, the SL will retrieve the information related to the requested URL, do the required accounting, contact the service component ssUAPp, if necessary, and return the information. A browser session is registered by the SL when a service session is associated with this browser session. If the browser session is not registered, the SL will return a web page containing an applet AL. The AL will try to find whether the user is already in an access session, and if not, the AL will establish an access session. After, the AL will join the referenced managed content retrieval service session in the

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context of the access session. When the AL has registered the browser session via joined service session at the user side, the AL will again request the initial URL. The SL will now find that the web-session is registered and react as indicated above (page 10, lines 15 to 28 of the specification; *also see e.g.*, pages 11-15 of the specification). Accordingly, integration of the service platform and the Internet is improved.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

There are two issues on appeal. The first issue on appeal is whether the Examiner improperly rejected claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The second issue on appeal is whether the Examiner improperly rejected claims 1-4 and 6-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Zen et al. "Value-added Internet: a pragmatic TINA-based path to the Internet and PSTN Integration" Global Convergence of Telecommunications and Distributed Objected Computing Proceedings, November 17-20, 1997 (hereinafter "Zen") in view of Manione et al., "A 'TINA Light' Service Architecture for the Internet-Telecom scenario," Telecommunications Information Networking Architecture Conference Proceedings, April 12-15, 1999 (hereinafter "Manione").

VII. ARGUMENT

Appellant respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's rejections of the claims pending in the application for at least the following reasons.

Issue 1: Claims 1 and 11 are Clear and Definite.

Claims 1 and 11 are clear and are definite meeting the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner alleges that it is unclear how the applet initiates a "re-request" and how the "re-contact" of the web server is executed. The Examiner alleges that there should be a request and contact prior to the re-request and re-contact (*see* page 2 of the Non-Final Office Action mailed August 26, 2005). Appellant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 11 are definite and that both claims require a request and contact prior to the re-request and the re-contact.

Specifically, claim 1 recites "(b) when a user tries to use a service of said service platform by contacting said web server of said content provider within a certain browser session ... (d) ... after the logon process via the applet, the applet initiates a re-request to access the service session by initiating a re-contacting of said web server of the content provider".

That is, in step (b), the user requests or tries to use a service by contacting the web server of the content provider and in step (d) when the browser is not associated with the related service session, executing a logon process and after the logon, the applet initiating a re-request to access the service session by re-contacting the web server of the content provider. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claim 1 requires a request and contact (*see* step b) prior to the re-request and re-contacting (*see* step d). In short, Appellant respectfully submits that claim 1 is definite.

By way of an example, in an illustrative, non-limiting embodiment of the present invention, the user browses the content on the www and requests a link (URL) from the MCR service provider's server. This request invokes a servlet. The servlet retrieves information related to the requested URL and checks whether the browser session is already associated to the related service session. If not, a registration is performed via an applet provided by the servlet. After the registration, the applet initiates a re-request to access the service session by re-contacting the web server of the content provider (*see* page 10 of specification). It will be appreciated that the foregoing remarks relate to the invention in a general sense, the remarks are not necessarily limitative of any claims and are intended only to help understand the aspects of the claims thought to be indefinite by the Examiner.

Claim 11 recites analogous features to the features argued above with respect to claim 1. Specifically, claim 11 recites: "*when a user tries to use a service of said service platform by contacting said web server within an certain browser session, detecting whether or not said certain browser session is already associated to a related service session of a service platform... if said certain browser session is not associated to said related service session, the servlet returning a web-page containing an applet which is adapted for guiding an associated browser of the user through a logon process for said related service session at the service platform, and after the logon process via the applet, the applet initiates a re-request to access the service session by initiating a re-contacting of said web server of the content provider*" (emphasis added). Accordingly, arguments provided above with respect to claim 1 apply with equal force herein.

For at least these exemplary reasons, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 11 are definite. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests the Board to reverse this rejection of claims 1 and 11.

Issue 2: Claims 1-4 and 6-22 Are Unobvious In View of Manione and Zen.

The second issue on appeal is whether the Examiner improperly rejected claims 1-4 and 6-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Zen in view of Manione. This Appeal Brief, at least initially, focuses on claim 1. In particular, this Appeal Brief addresses: a) the claim language, b) the legal standard, c) the disclosure of the prior art cited by the Examiner *i.e.*, Manione and Zen, d) Examiner's position, and e) Appellant's position.

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 is a method claim for accessing a service platform via an Internet browser session. Claim 1 recites the following steps:

- (a) installing a servlet at a web-server of a content provider having access to said service platform;
- (b) when a user tries to use a service of said service platform by contacting said web server of said content provider within a certain browser session, detecting by said servlet whether or not said certain browser session is already associated to a related service session;
- (c) if said certain browser session is already associated to said related service session, performing predetermined actions related to said service session;
- (d) if said certain browser session is not associated to said related service session, the servlet returning a web-page containing an applet to guide an associated browser of

the user through a logon process for said related service session and after the logon process via the applet, the applet initiates a re-request to access the service session by initiating a re-contacting of said web server of the content provider; and

(e) said user accessing said service session via said certain browser session.

For example, a special servlet is installed at the web-server of a content provider. This servlet is triggered by a certain or all uniform resource locations (URL) *i.e.*, the user tries to use a service of the service platform by contacting the web server of the content provider within a certain browser session. The servlet determines whether a certain URL is associated to a particular user in a service session. When the browser session is not associated to the related service session, the servlet returns an applet that will walk the browsing user through the logon process for this service session associated with the requested URL. After the user is logged on, the initial URL is re-requested by the applet by re-contacting the web server of the content provider. This time the servlet will find the association of the web browser session and the service session (page 3, lines 14 to 28 of the specification).

B. Legal Standard

The initial burden of establishing that a claimed invention is *prima facie* obvious rests on the USPTO. *In re Rikckaert*, 9 F. 3d 1531, 1532 (Fed. Cir. 1993). To make its *prima facie* case of obviousness, the USPTO must satisfy three requirements:

a) The prior art relied upon, coupled with the knowledge generally available in the art at the time of the invention, must contain some suggestion or incentive that would have motivated to artisan to modify a reference or to combine references. *In re Thrif*, 298 F. 3d 1357, 1363 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

b) The proposed modification of the prior art must have had a reasonable expectation of success, and that determined from the vantage point of the artisan at the time the invention was made. *Amgen, Inc. v. Chugai Pharm. Co.*, 927 F. 2d 1200, 1209 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

c) The prior art reference or combination of references must teach or suggest all the limitations of the claims. *In re Vaeck*, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438, 1442 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *In re Wilson*, 424 F. 2d 1382, 1385 (CCPA 1970).

The motivation, suggestion or teaching may come explicitly from statements in the prior art, the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, or, the nature of a problem to be solved. *In re Dembiczak*, 175 F. 3d 994, 999 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Alternatively, the motivation may be implicit from the prior art as a whole, rather than expressly stated. *Id.* Regardless if the USPTO relies on an express or an implicit showing of motivation, the USPTO is obligated to provide particular findings related to its conclusion, and those findings must be clear and particular. *Id.* A broad conclusion, standing alone without support, is not “evidence.” *Id.*; *see also, In re Zurko*, 258 F. 3d 1379, 1386 (Fed. Cir. 2001).

In addition, a rejection cannot be predicated on the mere identification of individual components of claimed limitations. *In re Kotzab*, 217 F.3d 1365, 1371 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Rather, particular findings must be made as to the reason the skilled artisan, with no knowledge of the claimed invention, would have selected these components for combination in the manner claimed. *Id.*

C. Prior Art

Zen discloses a theoretical concept of integrating the Internet with a PSTN using TINA. Specifically, Zen discloses “[t]he prototype that is currently being developed within the

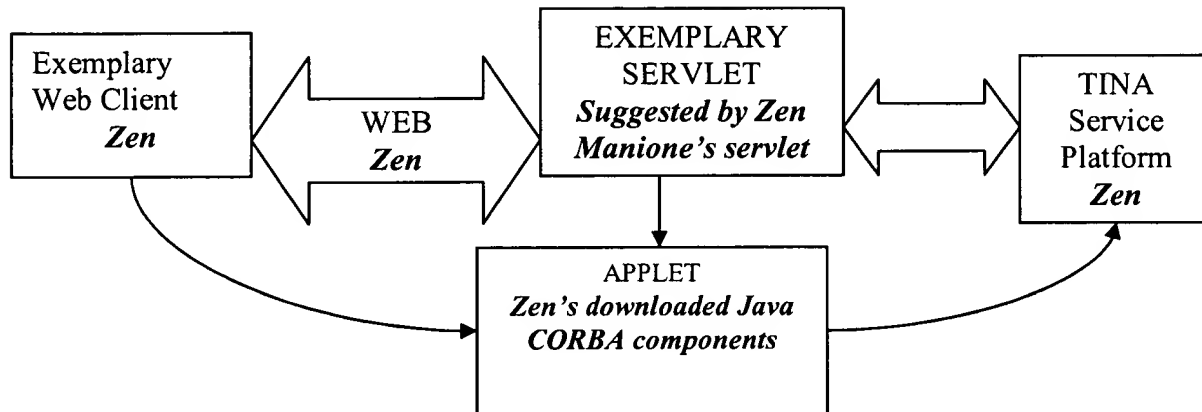
SISTINA (Solutions for Integrated Services a la TINA) project to demonstrate the concepts outlined in the paper described” (see *Abstract*).

In particular, Zen discloses an end user, a retailer, and a third party service provider. The retailer is SISTINA, which in addition to TINA’s functionality provides additional benefits of session control, guaranteed quality of service, etc. (Fig. 1; § 2.0). In particular, Zen teaches that the end user must download additional Java software in order to make his browser TINA capable. This software that must be downloaded incorporates Java CORBA client for functional interaction (§ 2.1, first paragraph). Zen’s retailer provides features like access session capabilities and communication session capabilities. In addition, the retailer serves as a connectivity provider providing access to the resources of the physical switched network (§ 2.2). Finally, Zen discloses an Internet Application Provider, which interacts with the retailer using CORBA (§2.3).

Manione discloses integrating traditional telecommunications and the Internet using a simplified TINA that combines the retailer and provider (see *Abstract*). Moreover, Manione discloses using one single Java native ORB throughout the entire platform. In particular, Manione discloses using active UAP and static UAP in the user domain (§ 2.B, pages 25-26). Active UAPs are regular computational objects (no different from conventional ones). The active UAP is implemented through a Java applet because the invocation of the methods through its interface must be signed. Static UAP may be a set of HTML pages, with optional JavaScript extensions. The first page is downloaded and user actions trigger the download of the next page. UAP Backend procedures (*e.g.*, servlet or CGI) support such mechanism (§ 3.A, pages 26-27).

D. Examiner's Position

With respect to claim 1, the Examiner's position could be summarized in the following diagram.



That is, the Examiner's position appears to be that Zen discloses all of the unique features of claim 1 except that it does not explicitly disclose the servlet. The Examiner, however, alleges that since Zen suggests using Java and CORBA, a servlet is implied (*see* page 2, first full paragraph and paragraph abridging pages 29-30 of the Non-Final Office mailed on August 26, 2005).

The Examiner further maintains that Manione's servlet could be used to perform various unique features recited in claim 1 instead of using the Java and CORBA components, as disclosed by Zen. For example, the Examiner alleges that Manione's servlet is used for session services such as event logging and session managing. Accordingly, the Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to incorporate the use of servlet into the system of Zen, in order to serve the User Application and to host the backend procedures on the provider/retailer side or server side for interacting with other objects of the service platform in session management (*see* pages 5 and 30 of the Non-Final Office Action).

Moreover, the Examiner alleges that since Zen discloses Java software to enable the browser to interact with TINA, Zen discloses re-requesting the service by initiating re-contacting as set forth in claim 1 (*see* page 3, first full paragraph and paragraph abridging pages 30 and 31 of the Non-Final Office Action).

E. Appellant's Position

Appellant respectfully submits that the combined teachings of Zen and Manione fail to disclose or suggest the unique features set forth in claim 1. It is Appellant's position that the combined teachings of Zen and Manione fail to disclose:

- a) "installing a servlet at a web-server of a content provider having access to said service platform;"
- b) "detecting by said servlet whether or not said certain browser session is already associated to a related service session; if said certain browser session is not associated to said related service session, the servlet returning a web-page containing an applet to guide an associated browser of the user through a logon process for said related service session," and
- c) "after the logon process via the applet, the applet initiates a re-request to access the service session by initiating a re-contacting of said web server of the content provider."

The combined teachings of Zen and Manione do not disclose or suggest "installing a servlet at a web-server of a content provider," as required by claim 1. The Examiner, on page 5 of the Non-Final Office Action dated August 26, 2005, alleges that:

Zen does suggest the use of CORBA and JAVA technology on the Web server side in an effort for support of the interaction between the Web server and the web browser

via the SISTINA server (= SISTINA retailed)
[see Zen, Figs. 1-2 and Sec. 2.3]. This
implies that there is a use of servlet as a
Java program running on the Web server.

Appellant respectfully submits that Examiner's "implication" is unsupported and is a mere speculation. For example, Figs. 1 and 2 fail to disclose or suggest any CORBA or Java technology. Moreover § 2.3 of Zen only discloses that interaction between the server applications and the retailer are CORBA based. Specifically Zen discloses in § 2.3:

In a more advanced Internet scenario in which utilization of IIOP is already foreseen, Web application designers can directly implement a SISTINA enhanced Web service as a distributed service using the CORBA and Java technology. In any case, the effort for the support of the interaction between the Web server and the SISTINA server could be minimized by delegating these operations to a SISTINA software package installed in the Web server (emphasis added).

That is, Zen only discloses using CORBA and Java technology for a distributed service. Zen, however, fails to disclose or suggest any installations, in the passage noted by the Examiner.

Moreover, Zen fails to suggest or imply a servlet. Zen discloses using CORBA, which is no different from the techniques discussed in the background of the invention. CORBA is a distributed object broker architecture that requires establishment of interorb links (using inter-object request broker). CORBA tool uses an IDL (interface definition language) file to create stubs and skeletons, which serve as proxies for clients and servers. IDL defines interfaces very strictly so that the stubs on the client side will not have a problem meshing perfectly with the skeleton on the server side. However, this causes problems for maintenance and development

especially over the network boundaries. CORBA is impractical for portal for services because portals need to be reconfigurable.

Moreover, Zen disclosure of using Java technology fails to imply or suggest a servlet. Java also has an interface defined in IDL with the interface being resolved at run time (wrapped code). Therefore, Zen could be using a Java implemented wrapper process and not a servlet. This wrapper process often communicates using a socket to connect with an applet. In addition, Zen only discloses downloading Java software and using Java CORBA client for functional interaction and using a client applet as a GUI for service management, integrated billing, and connectivity control related operations (Zen § 2.1). Zen fails to suggest or imply a servlet. In other words, Zen has the disadvantages of requiring downloading and tight CORBA binding. In short, in Zen, there is no suggestion either explicit or implicit of installing a servlet.

Manione fails to cure the deficient teachings of Zen. Manione discloses that in the user domain, UAP is hosted by the internet browser (page 26, § III.A). The static UAP is made by a set of HTML pages, with optional JavaScript extensions. Each page corresponds to one state in the User-Service Interactions state machine. For example, in Manione, the page corresponding to the Initial state is downloaded at the beginning; the user performs the actions requested within the page and sends his data. This action triggers a state change which is implemented as the download of a new page. Backend procedure supporting static UAP may include servlets (page 27, § III.A.2).

That is, Manione fails to disclose or suggest installing a servlet. Moreover, Manione fails to disclose or suggest installing the servlet at the web-server of the content provider. That is,

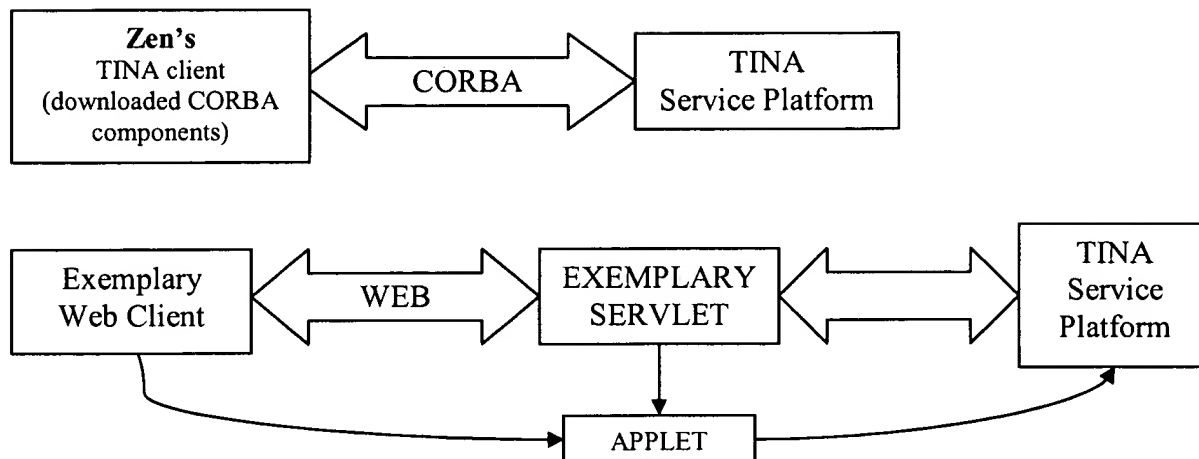
Manione discloses a servlet in the user domain that supports a static UAP and not a servlet installed on the web-server of the content provider.

In short, the combined teachings of Zen and Manione fail to disclose or suggest “installing a servlet at a web-server of a content provider having access to said service platform,” as set forth in claim 1.

Moreover, the combined teachings of Zen and Manione fail to disclose or suggest “detecting by said servlet whether or not said certain browser session is already associated to a related service session; if said certain browser session is not associated to said related service session, the servlet returning a web-page containing an applet to guide an associated browser of the user through a logon process for said related service session,” as set forth in claim 1.

In Zen, once the software is installed in order to TINA enable user browser, the user may initiate a TINA service session. That is, Zen teaches having a service request being sent from the user to the dedicated component of TINA service architecture and the appropriate service provider is selected by the TINA service platform. The connection between the user and the selected service provider is established on the basis of the request coming from a retailer component of the TINA service platform. In other words, Zen teaches having a dedicated connection between the TINA service platform and the user browser via CORBA.

Zen fails to teach or suggest having a servlet installed at the web-server for the provider to start as service session and associate it with certain URLs via a database. That is, Zen fails to disclose or suggest having a proxy in a form of a servlet for enabling user browser to use TINA and for guiding the user through a logon process. By way of an example, the following diagram is provided to illustrate the differences between Zen and exemplary features of claim 1.



In short, in Zen, CORBA components have to be downloaded into the browser to enable the browser to use TINA. The user browser communicates via this downloaded CORBA with TINA service platform to obtain the benefits of SISTINA retailer.

Moreover, Manione fails to cure the deficient teachings of Zen. In Manione, one single Java native ORB may be used through the entire platform. Specifically, Manione discloses using an active UAP and a static UAP in the user domain (§ 2.B, pages 25-26). The active UAPs are regular computational objects that may be implement via an applet and the static UAP may be a set of HTML pages, with optional JavaScript extensions. UAP Backend procedures for the static UAPs may be a servlet or a CGI (§ 3.A, pages 26-27).

That is, Manione is no different from Zen. Manione suggests that active UAPs require: a) download of Java software for service, b) Java-CORBA interface, and c) tight CORBA binding. With respect to static UAPs, Manione simply states that the static UAPs could be implemented by scripts or servlets.

Manione, however, fails to teach or suggest how the Java service object could use the session information. That is, Manione does not teach or suggest providing central authentication

via a guided servlet entry. In other words, Manione fails to teach or suggest using the static UAPs to return a web-page containing an applet that guides an associated browser of the user through a logon process for said related service session when the browser session is not associated to the related service session. In short, the servlet disclosed in Manione is not used for the authentication process. This servlet in the user domain does not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a servlet for the logon and authentication processes and to place the servlet in the domain of the retailer.

In short, Manione discloses only Java applets via ORB for the active UAPs and downloaded web pages via servlets for the static UAPs. Manione, however, fails to teach or suggest using the session information to provide a central authentication via a guided servlet entry. That is, Manione fails to teach or suggest having an applet that would guide the associated browser of the user when the servlet does not associate the browser session to the related service session. Even assuming *arguendo* that Manione's servlet may be used for authentication, the intended basic and form-based authentication would not be secure since the information would be communicated between the browser client and the servlet over an open network. Manione fails to disclose or suggest using an applet that would allow to control the information that is communicated over the open network. In short, Manione does not cure the deficient teachings of Zen.

In view thereof, Appellant respectfully submits that the combined teachings of Zen and Manione fail to disclose or suggest "detecting by said servlet whether or not said certain browser session is already associated to a related service session; if said certain browser session is not associated to said related service session, the servlet returning a web-page containing an applet to

guide an associated browser of the user through a logon process for said related service session,” as set forth in claim 1.

Appellant further respectfully submits that the combined teachings of Zen and Manione fail to disclose or suggest “after the logon process via the applet, the applet initiates a re-request to access the service session by initiating a re-contacting of said web server of the content provider,” as set forth in claim 1. The Examiner alleges that Zen discloses these unique features of claim 1. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that since Java CORBA software makes the user TINA capable, Zen discloses re-requesting the service by initiating re-contacting, as set forth in claim 1 (*see* page 3, first full paragraph and paragraph abridging pages 30 and 31). Appellant respectfully submits, however, that Zen could be providing another downloaded page after the authentication, as taught by Manione, for example (page 27, § III.a.2). That is, Zen is silent to providing of an applet that would re-contact the web server and re-request access to service session. In fact, in the entire disclosure of Zen, there is no teaching or suggestion of any re-requests. Manione does not cure the deficient teachings of Zen.

In view thereof, Appellant respectfully submits that the combined teachings of Zen and Manione fail to disclose or suggest “after the logon process via the applet, the applet initiates a re-request to access the service session by initiating a re-contacting of said web server of the content provider,” as set forth in claim 1.

For at least these exemplary reasons, Appellant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the combined teachings of Zen and Manione.

F. Concluding Remarks

Therefore, “(a) installing a servlet at a web-server of a content provider having access to said service platform; (b) when a user tries to use a service of said service platform by contacting said web server of said content provider within a certain browser session, detecting by said servlet whether or not said certain browser session is already associated to a related service session; ... (d) if said certain browser session is not associated to said related service session, the servlet returning a web-page containing an applet to guide an associated browser of the user through a logon process for said related service session and after the logon process via the applet, the applet initiates a re-request to access the service session by initiating a re-contacting of said web server of the content provider,” as set forth in claim 1 is not taught or suggested by the combined teachings of Zen and Manione. Together, the combined teachings of these references would not have (and could not have) led an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to have achieved the subject matter of claim 1. For at least these exemplary reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Zen in view of Manione.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests the Board to reverse this rejection of claim 1.

G. Other Claims

Claims 2-10 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

With respect to independent claim 11, among many unique features, it recites: “detecting whether or not said certain browser session is already associated to a related service session of a service platform; ... if said certain browser session is not associated to said related service session, the servlet returning a web-page containing an applet which is adapted for guiding an

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Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests the Board to reverse this rejection of claim 1.

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associated browser of the user through a logon process for said related service session at the service platform, and after the logon process via the applet, the applet initiates a re-request to access the service session by initiating a re-contacting of said web server of the content provider.”

These features are somewhat analogous to the features argued above with respect to claim 1. Since claim 11 contains features that are somewhat similar to the features argued above with respect to claim 1, those arguments are respectfully submitted to apply with equal force here. For at least analogous exemplary reasons, therefore, Appellant respectfully requests the Board to reverse this rejection of independent claim 11 and its dependent claims 12-16.

With respect to independent claim 17, among many unique features, it recites: “informing a servlet launched on a web server of a content provider via the service session about the association of said browser session to said service session... wherein the servlet provides the web browser of the user with the applet serving as a proxy guiding the web browser of the user through the logon process.” As explained in greater detail above, the combined teachings of Zen and Manione fail to disclose or suggest having a servlet as set forth in claim 17. Since claim 17 contains somewhat similar features to the features argued above with respect to claim 1, those arguments are respectfully submitted to apply with equal force here. Moreover, Zen and Manione do not disclose or suggest a servlet providing an applet that serves as a proxy. For at these exemplary reasons, therefore, Appellant respectfully requests the Board to reverse this rejection of independent claim 17.

Claims 18-21 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

Moreover, dependent claim 19 recites: “when said certain browser session is not associated to said related service session, the servlet of the content provider sends a web-page containing the applet to the browser of the user, wherein the sent applet guides the browser of the user through the logon process to a retailer, and wherein, after the logon process, informing the content provider of an established association between the browser of the user and the retailer.”

Appellant respectfully submits that the combined teachings of Zen and Manione fail to disclose or suggest the servlet sending a web page with an applet. As explained above with reference to claim 1, Zen fails to disclose or suggest a servlet. Manione fails to cure the deficient teachings of Zen. Manione’s servlet generates pages out of templates (page 27) but there is no disclosure or suggestion that the static downloaded pages generated by the user’s servlet are sent to the user nor that they contain an applet. In fact, since Manione’s servlet is in a user domain (user browser, page 426), there is no need to send an applet. In addition, Manione fails to disclose or suggest the servlet being a servlet of the content provider. For at least these additional exemplary reasons, claim 19 is patentable over the combined teachings of Zen and Manione.

Dependent claim 20 recites: “the servlet returns the applet to the browser of the user, said applet, executed on the user browser, serves as a proxy for interaction between the user browser and a retailer.” Appellant respectfully submits that the combined teachings of Zen and Manione fail to disclose or suggest the servlet returning an applet that serves as a proxy for interaction between the user browser and the retailer. As explained above, Zen does not disclose or suggest a servlet. Moreover, Zen does not disclose or suggest a servlet returning an applet that serves as a proxy for interaction between the user browser and the retailer.

Manione fails to cure the deficient teachings of Zen. Manione does not disclose using a servlet for logon and authentication process. With respect to the authentication process, an applet is provided using ORB and not by the servlet. Moreover, in Manione, there is no retailer. Instead, Manione discloses an integrated provider/retailer domain (page 27, § III.B.i). That is, in Manione fails to disclose or suggest applet provided by the servlet that serves as a proxy for interaction between the user browser and a retailer. For at least these additional exemplary reasons, claim 20 is patentable over the combined teachings of Zen and Manione.

Dependent claim 21 recites: “the servlet provides the applet to the browser of the user and the browser of the user executes the applet guiding central authentication to a retailer, wherein, after the central authentication, the retailer informs the service provider of an association between the browser of the user and a party providing the service, and wherein, after the retailer informs the service provider of the association, the applet re-requests access to the service and the servlet associates the browser of the user to the related service.” As explained in greater detail above with respect to claims 1, 19, and 20, the combined teachings of Zen and Manione fail to disclose or suggest the servlet providing the applet to the browser of the user and the browser of the user executes the applet guiding central authentication to a retailer.

Moreover, neither Zen, nor Manione disclose or suggest that after the central authentication, the retailer informs the service provider of an association between the browser of the user and a party providing the service. Moreover, the combined teachings of Zen and Manione do not disclose or suggest after the retailer informs the service provider of the association, the applet re-requesting access to the service and the servlet associates the browser of the user to the related service. Zen fails to disclose or suggest a servlet, and in Manione, there

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is no retailer. That is, in Manione fails to disclose or suggest the servlet associating the browser of the user to the related service. For at least these additional exemplary reasons, claim 21 is patentable over the combined teachings of Zen and Manione.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests the Board to reverse this rejection of claims 2-21.

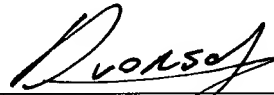
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VIII. CONCLUSION

Unless a check is submitted herewith for the fee required under 37 C.F.R. §41.37(a) and 1.17(c), please charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CLAIMS APPENDIX

CLAIMS 1-4 AND 6-21 ON APPEAL:

1. A method for accessing a service platform (SP) via an Internet browser session, said method comprising steps of:
 - (a) installing a servlet at a web-server of a content provider having access to said service platform;
 - (b) when a user tries to use a service of said service platform by contacting said web server of said content provider within a certain browser session, detecting by said servlet whether or not said certain browser session is already associated to a related service session;
 - (c) if said certain browser session is already associated to said related service session, performing predetermined actions related to said service session;
 - (d) if said certain browser session is not associated to said related service session, the servlet returning a web-page containing an applet to guide an associated browser of the user through a logon process for said related service session and after the logon process via the applet, the applet initiates a re-request to access the service session by initiating a re-contacting of said web server of the content provider; and
 - (e) said user accessing said service session via said certain browser session.
2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said user accessing said service session via said certain browser session by using said applet received within said browser session for accessing said service session.

3. A method as in claim 1, wherein said received applet is launched on said browser.
4. A method as in claim 1, wherein said applet contacts said service session and informs said servlet via the service session about the association of said certain browser session to said service session.
6. A method as in claim 4, wherein said servlet is informed via the service session about the association of said certain browser session with a particular party.
7. A method as in claim 6, wherein accounting procedures for said party are passed to said servlet.
8. A method as in claim 4, wherein for contacting the service session, said applet starts an access session and logs on to a retailer.
9. A method as in claim 8, wherein said applet tries to find, whether the user is already in an access session and if not it will establish one.
10. A method as in claim 8, wherein during the log on, a user-application service component is launched.
11. A servlet for being installed at a web server, said servlet is adapted for performing following steps when executed on said web server:

when a user tries to use a service of said service platform by contacting said web server within an certain browser session, detecting whether or not said certain browser session is already associated to a related service session of a service platform;

if said certain browser session is already associated to said related service session, performing predetermined actions related to said service session; and

if said certain browser session is not associated to said related service session, the servlet returning a web-page containing an applet which is adapted for guiding an associated browser of the user through a logon process for said related service session at the service platform, and after the logon process via the applet, the applet initiates a re-request to access the service session by initiating a re-contacting of said web server of the content provider.

12. A servlet as in claim 11, wherein said servlet keeping a list of www browser sessions associated to service sessions of said service platform and related interfaces of user-application service components of said service platform.

13. A servlet as in claim 11, wherein said servlet, when launched on said web server, goes through a login procedure and starts a service session at a retailer of said service platform.

14. A servlet as in claim 13, wherein said servlet, when launched on said web server, launches a respective user-application service component within the service platform.

15. A service unit of a content provider having access to a service platform, said service unit comprising a content repository for providing content, a web-server for enabling the service unit to be a party of a Internet browser session and a servlet as in claim 11, being installed at said web-server.

16. A service unit as in claim 15, wherein each time a link is requested on the web server, the servlet is invoked.

17. An applet for accessing a service platform via an Internet browser session, said applet is adapted for performing following steps when executed on a web browser of a user:

guiding the web browser of the user through a logon process for a service session of a service platform;

informing a servlet launched on a web server of a content provider via the service session about the association of said browser session to said service session; and

initiating a contacting of said web server of the content provider by said web browser within said browser session,

wherein the servlet provides the web browser of the user with the applet serving as a proxy guiding the web browser of the user through the logon process.

18. The method as in claim 1, wherein one of said predetermined actions is charging.

19. The method as in claim 1, wherein, when said certain browser session is not associated to said related service session, the servlet of the content provider sends a web-page containing the applet to the browser of the user, wherein the sent applet guides the browser of the user through the logon process to a retailer, and wherein, after the logon process, informing the content provider of an established association between the browser of the user and the retailer.

20. The method according to claim 1, wherein the servlet is launched at the web-server of the content provider and wherein the servlet returns the applet to the browser of the user, said applet, executed on the user browser, serves as a proxy for interaction between the user browser and a retailer.

21. The method according to claim 1, wherein the servlet provides the applet to the browser of the user and the browser of the user executes the applet guiding central authentication to a retailer, wherein, after the central authentication, the retailer informs the service provider of an association between the browser of the user and a party providing the service, and wherein, after the retailer informs the service provider of the association, the applet re-requests access to the service and the servlet associates the browser of the user to the related service.

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EVIDENCE APPENDIX

NONE.

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RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

NONE.